

Partnership

A broad-based educational partnership, comprised of representatives of government, business and industry, nongovernmental organizations, and educational institutions, provides guidance to the effort, promotes outreach to various constituencies, and secures funding for curriculum development and review.

Government Partners

California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA)
California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB)
California Resources Agency
California Office of the Secretary for Education
California State Board of Education
California Department of Education
Assemblymember Pavley's Office
Senator Torlakson's Office

Kids are natural friends of the environment and they enjoy learning about the world around them. They also have the most to lose when their air and water quality is poor. Environmental education helps children understand their natural surroundings and teaches them to live and work in ways that are beneficial to their own health and the health of the planet.

Fran Pavley
Assembly Member

I have always believed in Lincoln's memorable words, "The philosophy of the school room today is the philosophy of the government tomorrow."

Terry Tamminen
Secretary
Cal/EPA

Associate Partners

California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance
California Environmental Education Foundation
California Farm Bureau
California Forest Products Commission
California Institute for Biodiversity
California Manufacturers and Technology Association
California School Boards Association
California Science Teachers Association
California State Association of Counties
California State Parks Foundation
California State Parent Teacher Association
California Teachers Association
California Film Extruders and Converters Association
Coalition for Clean Air
Film and Bag Industry
George Lucas Educational Foundation
Heal the Bay
League of California Cities
McGuire Environmental Consultants
National Geographic Society
Planning and Conservation League
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Sierra Club Youth Services
Society of the Plastics Industry
TreePeople
UC Berkeley, School of Public Health
Universal Studios
USC Sea Grant Program
Walt Disney Company
Warner Bros.
Waste Management
Water Education Foundation
Western States Petroleum Association



EDUCATION and the ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

For More Info

Please visit the AB 1548 website for more information about the initiative:
www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/AB1548/.

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Cal/EPA



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Education and the Environment Initiative

Overview

Everyone and everything is linked to the environment. California's economic prosperity, the health of its citizens, in fact, our whole future depends on the health of the environment in which we live.

Integrating education about the environment into our K-12 school system will make learning relevant to today's world and prepare students to be knowledgeable leaders and consumers who can make informed decisions about California's future.

The Education and the Environment Initiative, signed into law in 2003, mandates the development of a unified strategy to bring education about the environment into California's K-12 schools.



This mandate requires:

- ✓ Development of education principles and concepts for the environment.
- ✓ Alignment of the environmental principles and concepts to California's academic content standards to ensure that students achieve mastery.
- ✓ Development of a comprehensive educational plan for kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, for teaching the environmental principles and concepts.
- ✓ Incorporation of the environmental principles and concepts into criteria for textbook adoption in science, mathematics, English/language arts, and history/social sciences.
- ✓ Alignment of the state's environmental education programs with the environmental principles and concepts.

The partners leading this groundbreaking effort include California's Environmental Protection Agency and Integrated Waste Management Board, in cooperation with California's Resources Agency, State Department of Education, State Board of Education, and the Office of the Secretary for Education.



Methodology

Implementation of the Education and the Environment Initiative has been designed to ensure significant participation by a diverse group of stakeholders and includes the following elements:

- Environmental principles and concepts developed by technical working groups comprised of leading scientists, university professors, educators, and policy makers with expertise in energy and water resources; natural resources management; pollution and toxicology; and marine, aquatic, and terrestrial ecology.
- Alignment of environmental principles and concepts with California's academic content standards by teams of educators throughout the state.
- Web-based online discussion and review of draft program elements by all interested parties.
- Development of a model curriculum for K-12 schools in cooperation with the Resources Agency, the State Department of Education, and the State Board of Education.

Children have a thirst for knowledge. The Education and the Environment Initiative will allow our children the opportunity for traditional education while learning about environmental stewardship.

Linda Moulton-Patterson
Chair, California Integrated Waste
Management Board